

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We made it!



Looking Back - Autumn Term Highlights

Thank you to every member of our school community for working together to make our school a safe and positive place for our children. The children were asked to think back over this term and share what made this term memorable and it is a testament to our staff that the words Covid, hand sanitiser and social distancing were not mentioned. Instead the children talked about what they had achieved and enjoyed. Here are some of the highlights they shared:

"In Reception we have been making story maps to help us tell stories."

"In Year 2, we have learnt how to create expanded noun phrases. We have enjoyed sharing these as a class."

"In Year 5, we wrote non-chronological reports about planets and monsters."

"In Year 4, we have designed pop up cards. We learnt about levers and explored how these worked to use them in our cards."

"In Nursery, we have been learning to listen carefully and spot words that rhyme."

"In Year 3, we are very proud of our persuasive writing!"



"In Year 4, we have learnt about sound. We used cups and string to explore sound waves and vibrations."

"In Year 6, we re-enacted The Hobbit. We used expression and actions to show the feelings within the scene."

"In Year 1, we retold the story of The 3 Little Pigs and then created our own stories."

"In Nursery, we made yummy gingerbread men."

"In Year 2, we have been learning how to balance number sentences and explored greater than and less than."

"In Reception, we have explored the story Little Red Riding Hood. We met the Big Bad Wolf!"

Please ask your child what their highlight was from this term. Can they spot their learning from the pictures above?

Christmas at Leavesden

This year has not been like any other and we faced the prospect of Christmas with heavy hearts focusing on the plays that would not happen and songs we could not sing. However, thanks to our staff, Friends of Leavesden and children we have found ways to celebrate the season.

Each class decorated a hoop showing a Winter Story. All children have been able to visit and see them across this week.

On Wednesday, we had a delicious Christmas Dinner with crackers and Christmas music. The children looked amazing in their Christmas jumpers!

Every class has enjoyed watching a film this week with drinks and popcorn donated from our wonderful Friends of Leavesden Green.

Father Christmas sent a personalised virtual message to every class. Thank you again to our Friends of Leavesden Green for arranging this and for your generous gifts for all our children.

I would also like to thank the staff who despite being extremely tired as we neared the end of term continued to go above and beyond for the children of our school. We have had some naughty elves, signed Christmas songs and so many lovely learning opportunities.

Physical Education - by Our PE leader Mr Creasy

It is our belief that through participation, enjoyment and competition children will develop their physical literacy and so lead a healthy lifestyle. We fully believe that PE will support the children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development, helping make them rounded and grounded individuals.

To that end, this term, our children have enjoyed a range of sports, delivered by class teachers, sports coaches and dance instructors. Immediately on our return in September, everyone in the school undertook athletics sessions, using the newly purchased equipment, including proper javelins! In the run up to Christmas, our sports have been even more diverse: dance, gymnastics, netball, tag rugby and yoga, all of which continue in the new year. Plus, of course, we continue to do the Daily Mile each day, using our excellent track and undertaking the personal challenge to complete as much as possible - though by Year 4 everyone should have the realistic aim of completing the full mile in 10 minutes.

One key focus for the PE curriculum is on being sporting. This is something we value highly at school and it would be advantageous to highlight this to your child over the holidays, taking advantage of the vast quantities of sport that will be on TV. Point out to them where people are playing to the rules, or not, and where decisions are accepted, or not. This is one of the reasons why we have focused our team sports on netball and tag rugby, rather than football, where role models are not always so prevalent.

Thank you and Goodbye

As we end this term we say goodbye to Miss Alexander and Mrs Blyth. Thank you both for all you have brought to our school. Miss Alexander, we wish you the best in your future adventures and Mrs Blyth, a WELL deserved and restful retirement.

We also say goodbye to Miss Flint who has supported our Mountain Class and Miss O'Brien. Thank you both and Goodbye.

Book Review - By Bear Class



Treason by Berlie Doherty

This is a very good book which Bear Class recommends after reading it this term to support our learning about The Tudors.

The hero of the story is Will, who throughout this fast paced, action packed book has his life turned upside down. The book starts with tragedy for Will, but soon he finds himself in King Henry VIII's court as a page to Prince Edward. Then, just when he thinks life can't get any better, devastation hits and his world is turned upside down. He goes from luxury to poverty in an instant.

Can Will turn his fortunes around? Can he trust the new people he meets? Will he ever make his way back to King Henry's court again? All of these questions and more are answered as Will loses a lot, but finds himself.

You simply must read this book!

Communication with School over Christmas

We hope you all have a safe, healthy and happy break over Christmas. However...

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during the Christmas break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate.

During the holidays you should contact admin@leavesden.education – this will only be monitored until Christmas Eve as after this point your child(ren) shouldn't be a close contact of anyone at the school. Please do not call the school by telephone as this will not be covered during the Christmas holidays.

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Return to school in January – Monday 4th January

Please do not send children back to nursery or school in January if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full isolation period requested

We wish you a safe and merry Christmas and a look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Mrs Lyon and the Leavesden Team